treatment, disposal, export, import and recycling of hazardous wastes listed in the Schedules annexed to these rules.

Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has provided a scheme for registration of recyclers and re-processors for hazardous waste recycling and reprocessing units in order to ensure that such wastes are recycled in an environmentally sound manner. The recycling and reprocessing of hazardous wastes is allowed to be carried out only by the units registered as recyclers with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and having environmentally sound management facilities for recycling such wastes. The list of registered recyclers is available with the CPCB's website *www.cpcb.nic.in.*

Building of a hotel near the base camp of Mount Everest

2504. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that China has built a hotel and other facilities near the base camp of Mount Everest;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these constructions are having an adverse effect on the Himalayas;

(c) whether his Ministry has started any consultation/discussion with the Chinese counterpart on protecting the Himalayas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Threat to existence of tigers

†2505. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the threat to the existence of tigers is not averting despite all efforts by Government in this regard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the figures of the Wildlife Institute, mere 1300 to 1500 tigers exist presently in the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor together with the concrete steps which are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The All India estimation of tigers and other wild animals, including habitat status evaluation, is ongoing as per the revised, enhanced methodology endorsed by the Tiger Task Force from November, 2005. The tiger estimation figures relating to four States (Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) indicate a decline in tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.